12/21/70

Dear Gary,

Two things have been on my mind and in the few minutes before I leave to pick Lil up I address them briefly. By the way, Jerry and another friend were here this weekend. Jerry did a fine thing for me: he went ou and bought me a new coffee pot(automatic), knowing Lil had just cracked my favorite. I appreciate it very much, but now must learn how to make coffee all over again.

One is your long silence. Is it just that you are busy, or is something troubling you? Has something turned up in analysis? (Except for an Xmas card with nothing but her name on it, I've heard nothing from Mary in a long, long time.)

Themother is Ned Crosby's question, unsolicited, hoe can he help me? I did not anticipate it, but immediately anticipated, from my experience with other people of means, that the answer could be a turnOff. So. there are things I could have said that I didn't. I restricted myself to help in getting such things as PM printed.

If he has the disposition to help, there are many ways in which he can, all related to work and the capacity for it. I hestitated to suggest any, and some would not have occurred to me spontaneously, for I do not have such dreams.

One might be a great help, but could cost more than he would be willing to spend. My old typewriter is shot. I've been using the partable, which is not built to hold up to the heavy use and heavy pounding I give a typewriter. Because I cannot afford a new machine, even a rebuilt one, and haven't been able to find a decent second-hand one, I've been using the portable. I can't use it in my desk, which is made for an upright. SO, I'm giving the desk away and am making a substitute until I can get one that I can use. I'll be putting a sheet of plywood on top of two half-filing cabinets. Of course, this eliminates the drawer space I need, but I'll make out, if less conveniently. I'll have a problem with convenient paper, for example.

Lil and I have often wondered whether we could ever afford one of the IBM machines for her, which would release her good machine for me. The advantage of the particular IBM machine we have in mind is the interchangeable balls of type. This should be an asset in preparing the masters of other books, for at a cost of about $30 each, we could get a variety of faces, including italics. It is not by any means an imperative, and I may not even be right in believing it would be an improvement in the appearance and legibility of the finished work. But I think it would be.

As you know, I'm not paranoid about such matters, but isolated as we are and with an already-existing list of unfriendlies, I anticipate that with the appearance of FRAME-UP the list will be lengthehed to include some of the more irresponsible (as can my Minuteman work of which you know little or nothing, if it ever gets out that I am the source). There could be a measure of protection in my having an adequate CB transceiver that operates on the always-watched local emergency channel. Ned asked me about being afraid, and I told him that I am not. This is true. But I am also not unaware of the possibility someone might intend us harm. Such a set, locally, would cost $125 or a little more, plus the cost of a battery pack for when there is no current. Were anyone to try something, unless it were a bombing, the first thing that would happen is that we'd lose light and phone service. Both services are visible and accessible.

I mention these things only in the event he mentions them subject to you and you consider it might not be wrong to mention anything to him.

Hope you are okay and that you have a good holiday. I've heard nothing from him since he was here.

Sincerely,